



ASCHIANA

Annual Report 1998

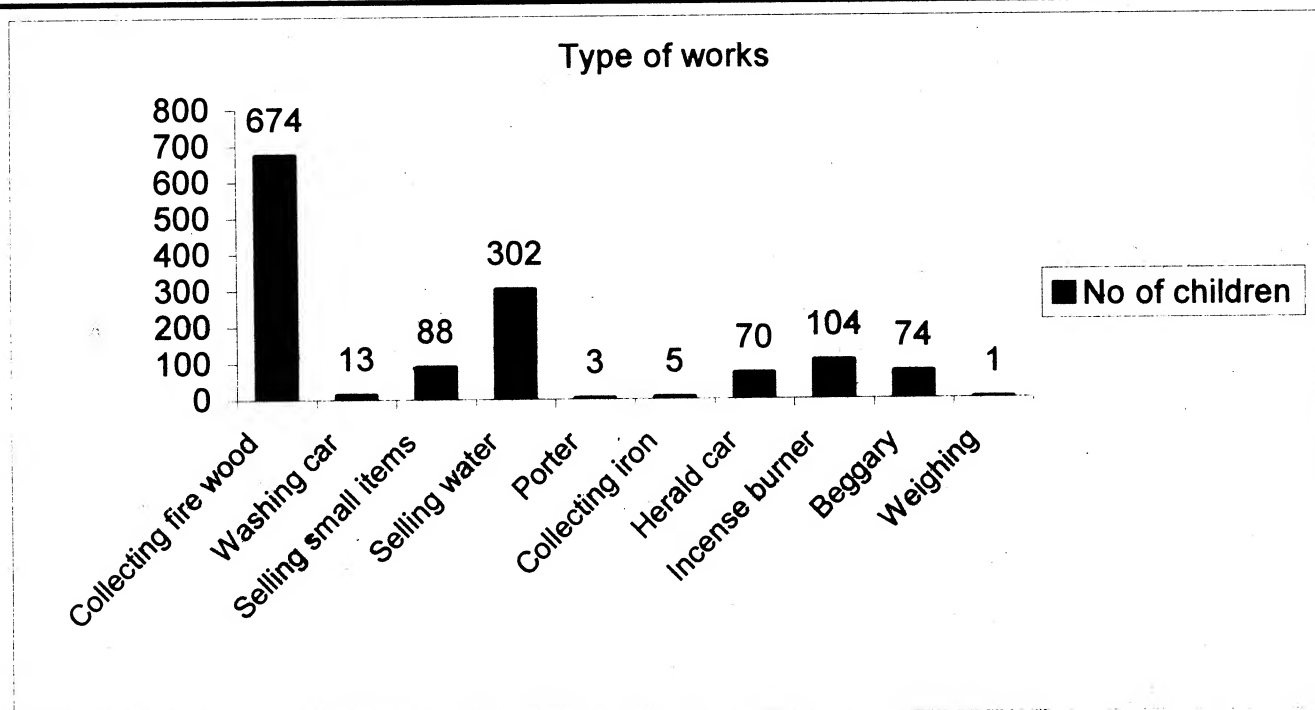
CHILD CENTER



Table of Contents

1. Introduction	Page 1
ASCHIANA Drop in centers	2
Criteria for Admission	3
Restrictions by the Authorities	4
Girls above age 10	4
 2. Description of Activities	 5
Health Education and Hygiene	6
Social Work	7
Meals	8
Medical Care	9
Physical Education	9
Tailoring / clothing	10
Flower making and bead weaving	10
Masonry / wall painting	11
Carpentry / wood carving	11
Carpet weaving	11
Calligraphy and drawing	11
Training in overcoming trauma	12
Training in mini-farming	13
Staff efficiency development	13
 3. Problems and Obstacles	 14
Education	14
Personal Hygiene and Health	14
Vocational training	14
 4. Recommendations	 15
Education	15
Health and Personal Hygiene	15
Vocational training	15
 5. Traumatized children's stories	 16
 6. Main Objectives of ASCHIANA program	 18





Introduction:

Due to the spontaneous prolongation for twenty years of a devastating war and internal conflict in Afghanistan, most of the civilian functions and infrastructure like education, health, agriculture and industrial setups in the country have totally deteriorated. All agricultural farms, roads, bridges and public buildings are damaged. The existence of landmines has turned much of the fertile land to useless grounds and dangerous sites. The factories and the production mechanism have almost disappeared. In short, most of the infrastructure of the country has been lost. These are part of the very causes and factors that have cornered the Afghan people to numerous awful problems. Many lost their jobs and personal properties and as the result immigrated to other locations and countries. Many children became orphans and many women became widows. Many children and families became 'war traumatized'. Today, children are the most vulnerable members of the Afghan society, particularly in the city of Kabul, where inhabitants of many residential quarters of the city have been killed, disabled or immigrated. War has left considerable bad effects on children, especially in cities, as they are perceptible and sensible, noting that their parents were killed, disabled, or whole family was displaced in despair.

Through a survey ASCHIANA, *Terre des hommes*, and UNHCR performed in 1996, about 28000 children were identified as 'street working children' in 10 populous districts of Kabul City. Now this figure has increased considerably.

ASCHIANA had 650 street working children registered in four ASCHIANA centers at the early 1998. In result of a survey in the first quarter of 1998, an additional 684 children, boys and girls, were accepted to the ASCHIANA child centers. At the second quarter of 1998 the number of children was

1334. These children, both male and female, have the duty and responsibility of earning income for their families' livelihood, as the family's bread earners were killed or disabled. For some children their elders are not in the position to afford the family's basic costs. To support the family, their children have to work and earn something, be it working for others or working on the streets.

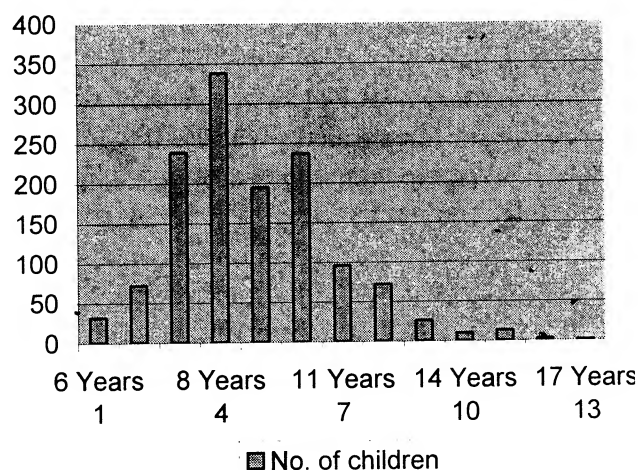
It is worth mentioning that among these children, 80% are from displaced families, 9% from returnees, and 11% from the residents of Kabul itself. They are unable to continue their education or have not at all had the opportunity for education, as they have had the responsibility of earning some income for their families. Many children work in variety of jobs such as polishing shoes, burning incense, collecting firewood and/or scraps of paper for fuel, collecting bones and metal or begging for money or bread. Others would work as porters in the markets, washing cars, selling small items as vendors, selling water in the summer. The details of percentage and type of work carried on by the children appears below.

ASCHIANA's 'drop in centers'

Field of Work	Number	Percent
Beggary/Collecting firewood	754	56.56%
Burning Incense	68	5.09%
Selling water	261	19.55%
Shoe Polishing	32	2.40%
Selling small items	93	6.97%
Car washing, coolies, collecting metal, weighing and cart driving	19	1.42%
Total	1334	100.00%

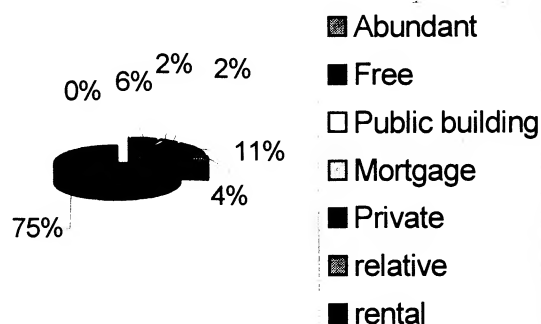
In order to save these street working children from doing useless (education wise), worthless (profit wise) and harmful work, ASCHIANA has established four 'drop in' centers that admit the street working children and provide them with courses in basic literacy, reading and writing as well as numeracy and some arithmetic. These children also receive health education and learn some vocational training. The aim is to enable them to function as healthy members of the society in the future.

Age of the Children in Aschiana



The criteria for admitting children in ASCHIANA is as follows:

- A child that has been working on the street for 6 months,
- A child with poor economy,
- A child being deprived of formal education,
- The children's age limits are between 5 and 16 years,
- The child should not have any other regular occupation,
- The child should be related to displaced family or a returnee groups,
- A child who has lost one of his/her parents or both parents, or their parents cannot work, due to disability.



These centers are located in the most populated residential quarters of the city like Khair Khana, De Afghanan, Shar-i-Naw and Micro Rayon. The centers are easily accessible from the usual work area of the children. In the beginning of the year 1998, the number of 'street working children' registered at the four centers of ASCHIANA were 650. The children were composed of boys and girls. This figure even does not make 2.3% of the total number of street working children in the city of Kabul.

In May 1998 the number of street working children registered in ASCHIANA centers in-

creased to 1334 children. Registration of the additional 650 street working children, male and female, took place through the survey conducted by ASCHIANA during the first quarter of the year.

During the months of May and June 1998, all of the 1334 boys and girls were eagerly attending the centers. They were receiving the normal program of training and support of meals. Girls came to the centers in the mornings, while the street-working boys used the centers in the afternoons.

The children have benefited considerably.

The numbers of street working children registered in four centers are as follows:

<u>Centers Name/#</u>	<u># of children</u>
1. Shar-e-Naw	255
2. Khair Khana	359
3. Micro Rayon	360
4. Deh Afghanan	360
Total	1334

Restrictions by the Authorities

On attendance of female beneficiaries

By early July 1998, the authorities ordered the ASCHIANA administration not to include girls in the program at the ASCHIANA centers, regardless of the child's age. Since that verbal order, the girls do not use these centers.

Effective the month of August 1998, the 'street working girls' continued to receive food and personal hygiene assistance from the ASCHIANA centers on a lump sum basis once a month.. Staff of the centers, the 'Female Home Visitor', continued to perform the visiting the girls at their homes on a regular program. The 'female Health Educators' provided the girls with necessary health instructions. The 'social workers', meanwhile, continued to visit the 'street working girls' at their 'work sites' from time to time. The medical doctors treated the patient street working children at the centers and his private clinic.

Province	Number	%
Kabul	648	49
Baghlan	16	1
Badakhshan	2	0
Parwan	382	29
Balkh	8	1
Bamyan	11	1
Farah	2	0
Ghazni	12	1
Kapisa	183	14
Helmand	1	0
Herat	2	0
Ningerhar	6	0
Jozjan	4	0
Kandahar	2	0
Kuner	4	0
Kunduz	3	0
Logar	23	2
Takhar	4	0
Wardak	16	1
Total	1334	100

Girls above age 10

During the second quarter of the year 1998, ASCHIANA also provided education program for those girls who were due to age limits not able to attend the centers. The program normally continued till early July 1998. However, this program was suspended due to the authorities firm and serious instructions into this effect.

It is worth mentioning that, in the beginning, in accordance with the instruction of the personnel of the department for '*prohibition of Vice and promotion of Virtue*' of the authorities, the girls under 10 years were of age allowed to attend the centers and to benefit from the programs. Later the same people instructed ASCHIANA that girls over age 10 should not come to

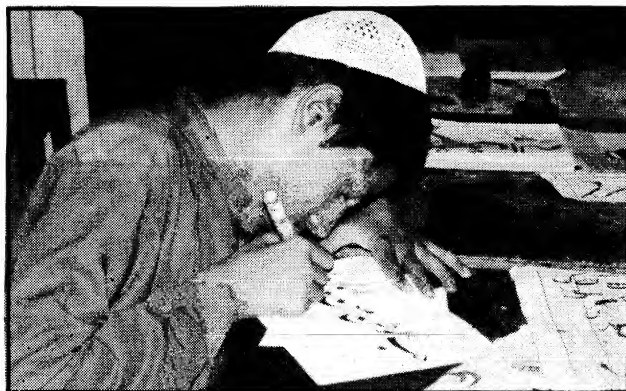
the centers. ASCHIANA decided that the girls above 10 would be taught regularly by the female teachers at the teachers' homes. They were mainly taught basic education, health education, while they also get training in bead weaving, embroidery, needles works, knitting. 10 to 12 girls were grouped together to attend to their lessons at their teacher's house. Some of the home sessions were held in the mornings while others were scheduled in the afternoons.

It should be clear that the groups of girls above 10 years of age are an addition to the already 650 girls registered in ASCHIANA centers. These girls are trained in basic education as well as the handicraft vocational training.

II. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

1. Education and Training:

As mentioned above, instructors at ASCHIANA child centers are teaching 1334 Street Working Children registered in 4 centers. The curriculum of the courses covers teachings in the Holy Quran, basic theology, reading and writing, arithmetic, and training in social behavior, basic health and hygiene. The preschool education covers teachings in reading and writing, arithmetic, physical education, and vocational



education. The children are also given awareness about narcotics and landmines. Instructors in the 'drop in' centers also provide practical training in masonry, carpentry and basic farming activities. The art classes include networking, wood carving, carpet weaving, tailoring, making paper flowers, calligraphy, drawing, painting, working with gypsum, and painting buildings.

The curriculum for girls, while they were attending the centers, did consist of teachings of the holy Quran, basic language skills such as reading and writing, numeracy education, theology. Their practical classes offered teaching in tailoring, making flowers, knitting, embroidery works, sewing, carpet weaving. The instructors at the centers are male.

Each center has a 'social worker' that is al-

ways keep contact with the children at their work sites, discuss the problems of the children at their work sites, and report their difficulties and problems to the centers. The social worker also arranges tours and visits by the children to industrial and vocational centers in the city. Since the girls are not allowed to attend the centers, the female teachers visit their homes and teach them to the extent possible the subjects that were taught in the centers.

The female 'Home Visitor' visits the female children at their work areas. She always keeps in touch with children's families at their homes, and talks to their parents or guardians of the children about their social, economic, environmental problems as well as war trauma matters. She tries to find solutions to their problems.

During 1998, the 'home visitor' performed 1530 home visits, and families of 1509 children visited ASCHIANA. The 'home visitors' report to the centers the children problems accordingly.

According to the reports of the social workers, from the time the girls were stopped to come to the centers, they have faced lots of problems related to health, food, hygiene, education and vocational training. The education and training that they received from the 'drop in' centers is not followed up and may lead to that the child forget what she has learned. Other members of their family, that cannot get the required nutrition themselves, in result of which they consume the food that is distributed to girls as substitute for their meals at ASCHIANA centers.

In order to solve this health problem of these girls at home, ASCHIANA has decided to issue hygiene material to them for their home use. The winter relief program was mainly conducted to reduce the problems of the girls. Under 'Winter Re-

lief Program' the girls received quilts, fuel, ghee, sugar, wheat flour and potatoes. Part of the process of distributing these items to the 650 girls started in December 1998, and would continue through out May 1999. For improvement of the girl's health, ASCHIANA distributed some hygiene item, such as soap, shampoo, toothbrush and toothpaste and towels. In order to solve the clothing problems of the children ASCHIANA contacted the ICRC in Kabul. Fortunately, we have been able to distribute girls' shoes and boys clothing to 1300 children.

To solve the children's problems related to

food shortage and economic limitation of the children's families, we have asked ICRC to help with providing chickens to their families through income generation. This will enable the families to learn about poultry production activities and to have some income generation

The 'home visitors' of ASCHIANA have the responsibility to check and see to what extent the problems of the children could be solved and submit their recommendations to ASCHIANA for further action and planning of proper strategies to help the children overcome their problems.

Health Education and Hygiene

There is a 'health educator' in each center. He / She instructs the children to wash themselves clean, brush their teeth, and cut their nails. The children at the centers, earlier both male and female, are taught in hygiene matters too. When the girls were banned from coming to the centers, they are taught to in a permissible and possible way at their work sites and at their homes.



Type of housing of the children

No.	Type	No.	%
1	Abundant	26	2
2	Free	83	6
3	Public building	30	2
4	Mortgage	28	2
5	Private	126	10
6	relative	60	4
7	rental	981	74
Total		1334	

The boys are taught the hygiene subjects at the centers. It has been the routine activities of all the kids that, as they come to the centers, they wash themselves clean and brush their teeth for 15 minutes. They wash their hands and face twice a day.

Each child has a locker in the center, where he can store his personal hygiene kit and the educational materials. The key of the drawer is with the child. If the children take along their notebooks and belongings along with themselves, they could possibly loose them as they after classes usually get occupied with their

work outside.

Pharmacist san Frontiers (PSF) was to some extent providing the hygiene materials. This support was stopped when that organization suspended its activities in Kabul by the end of June 1998. After that ASCHIANA managed to supply the necessary hygiene items to distribute to the children. The hygiene kit ASCHIANA provide for each child consists of a towel, a tooth brush, a tooth paste, a hand soap, a face cream, a bottle of hair shampoo, a comb, nail-cutter etc.

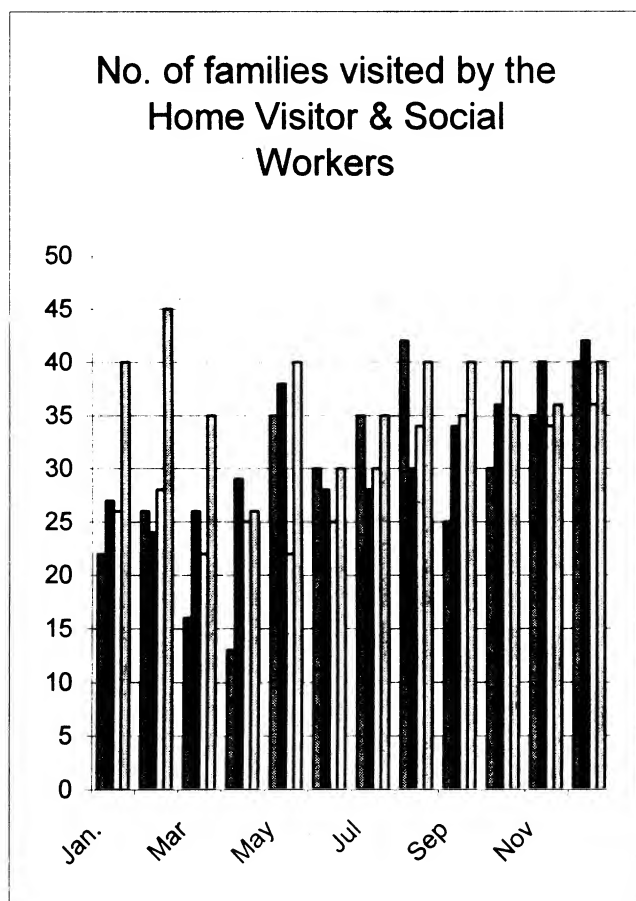
The Health Educator has conducted lessons on food and nutrition, vitamins and calories, etc. Also lessons about proper care and ways to protect the foodstuff in summer hot season were given to the children. They were also warned about transferable and contagious diseases common in the hot and cold seasons. Various charts about foodstuff and their nutritious values were prepared and taught to the children. Also differ-

ent charts were prepared to reflect the transfer of diseases by flies and other insects.

The children were instructed how to take preventive measures regarding malaria and leishmania flies causing the severe sicknesses. They were also informed about the importance of vaccination, particularly, the six vaccines injected to the infants.

Some topics were exercised by the children in forms of drama acts performed by the children, as part of the child to child health education system.

Since the girls are not allowed to come to the centers to benefit from the facilities, they seem to be prone to various types of diseases, because they had no access to hygiene kit mentioned above. Therefore, it was decided to provide the girls with the proper hygiene material to be used at their residences. Their 'health educators' have given them proper instructions. The children



Social Work

The Social workers always supervise the activities of the children in the field they are responsible to find new children to register in ASCHIANA. The Social Workers visits the children outside of ASCHIANA, at the field and their residences to help them solve their problems. The Social Workers always try to remove the bad effects of war trauma from the children and their families. The social workers also check and take note of the children who stop coming to the center, and are responsible to find out the causes of the children absence form the centers. The children are encouraged by them to

attend ASCHIANA centers and benefit from the training and other assistance available at ASCHIANA centers.

The Social Workers have arranged tours to groups of 10 and 20 children to the following shops in the city during the year 1998.

1. 50 boys to Sofizada furniture shop
2. 30 girls to tailoring shops
3. 60 boys to plastic making factory
4. 180 Boys to carpet weaving shops
5. 180 boys to carpentry and wood engraving shop
6. 240 children to cabinet making shops
7. 80 boys to refrigeration repair shops
8. 40 Girls to Sakhidad carpet making workshop
9. 40 Boys to another plastic making shop
10. 200 children to Khan Alam carpet weaving shop.
11. 46 children to carpet making shop
12. 30 Children to Tinsmith shop
13. 180 children to Shoe making, tannery and purse making and metal shops
14. 45 girls were taken to needle works and embroidery making firms
15. 60 children were taken to Homayun auto repair workshop.
16. 100 children were given the tour of Ghulam Mohammed Maimanagi Art center.

The children have liked such tours. These tours serve to wake up the interest of the children for different kinds of professions which they could start learning and improve their living.



Meals:

A recent survey conducted by ASCHIANA reveals that usually dry bread with tea, soup and rice make the main courses of meal at homes of these children. Their soup is made of boiled water, a little ghee and small amount of onion and salt. *Shola*, a dish of low quality rice, boiled in water with a small amount of ghee. This food lacks adequate vitamins and other nutritious values.

Since the children did not receive proper nutritious meals at their households, the 1334 male

and female street-working children were provided with two nutritious meals according to a prepared menu. The menu includes milk, meat, bread, eggs, vegetables, beans, peas, fruits, rice, lentils, yogurt and etc.

The girls came and had a meal in the child-centers until the months of June 1998. After that, the female street working children received *dry food* in kind such as rice, ghee and beans, that would avoid the girls from mal-nourishment to some extent.

Medical Care:

ASCHIANA has a pediatrician for its four 'child centers' who attends the sick children on a regular schedule in all centers. He subscribes medicine to the patients as necessary. Three children suffering from serious illnesses are referred to a hospital for diagnosis and treatment. The ASCHIANA doctor always examines the sick children as well as those referred to hospitals to insure proper medication and treatment. Children were also referred to specialists if they needed specialist's examination.

The children suffering from transferable diseases are given leave from the centers to rest at home until they are recovered.

The registered girls were instructed to con-

tact the ASCHIANA medical doctor when they would need medical assistance. The doctor would be available in a designated site to receive the patient girls for medical treatment. Necessary medicine was provided to them from the available medicine stock at ASCHIANA. Medicine is purchased from the bazaar if not available in the child centers. Children with serious medical problems were referred to the *Child Hospital* for further medical care. ASCHIANA provided medicine to all children that were hospitalized on recommendation of the centers pediatrician. As mentioned above, while PSF was in Kabul, it provided some medicine for children of these centers, but after suspension of their activities ASCHIANA had to purchase medicine from the local market.



During the year 1998, the doctor of ASCHIANA has treated the patient children for 38 *types of diseases*.

Children treated were :

First quarter	475
Second quarter	612
Third quarter	251
Fourth quarter	433
Total	1764

Physical Education:

The ASCHIANA child-centers have facilities for children sport and games. The children receive physical training and play games according to a timetable in the morning. The children are found to be interested in Ping-Pong, jump rope, hand ball and other local games. They also perform physical exercises for fitness.

Tailoring / Clothing:

About 127 children received vocational training in tailoring. Among them 30 children became able to work as skilled apprentices at tailor-shops in the market. If they have access to tailoring machine and other tailoring accessories, they work at private shops or at their homes for themselves. 28 children have become able to work under the supervision of a tailor master. The rest of the children in tailoring training are still learning the basic of tailoring activities.

They work and learn in groups of 10 children twice a week. They learn about the tailoring machine and its use. They are trained in stitching, toorie, over case stitch, pine stitch, marking, blind stitch, Sarak stitch, embroidery. They also work with chalk and board to learn the



theory design of men's clothes, tailoring of shirts and trousers. ASCHIANA has procured materials for making clothes for the children. The clothes will become ready for distribution to the children in the near future.

The female children have received plastic shoes already.

Flower Making & Bead Weaving:

About 125 children have been participating in 'paper flower making'. Out of which 20 girls, who are not coming to the centers now, became qualified 'flower makers' and are busy in making flowers at their homes and sell them in the market. Further, out of the 125 kids, 30 boys became well trained in this profession and are making flowers at the centers as well as at their homes for sale in the market. The rest of them are still learning flower-making industry in the centers.

It is worth mentioning that the children are making 100 to 110 flowers daily. The children sell flowers produced at the centers. While the cost of raw materials is recovered by the center the profit is distributed to the children.

Under this program bead weaving were also taught to the children, especially to girls, that showed more interest. They made baskets for Holy Quran, hair clips, candle sticks and ring holders.



Masonry, wall Painting:

The children in child-centers were given training on masonry and wall painting during 1998. The children were taught in mixing paint, production of desirable shades and color tones. They were also trained in using water paint and oil paint for painting buildings.

The 'masonry training' course was mainly focused on surface repair jobs, to make a surface ready for painting.

In this field 30 children received training, where out of them 20 children became skillful painters. They did a lot of useful work in ASCHIANA center No. 4, which was a ruined site. Now it appears to be very good place. These 20 children can work as wall painters independently. The remaining 10 children need further training.



Carpentry and Wood Carving:

40 children were put under training in carpentry and wood carving. Ten children were, after training, introduced to German Agro-Action an NGO in Kabul. Ten other children became well trained in carpentry and wood carving, while 20 children continued further training.

The carpentry section during the year produced sofas and chairs, picture frames, children toys and games, tables, miniature boxes, mine models, animal sculptures, book stand [for Holy Quran] and repair of various carpentry items. They also practiced carving crafts in wood.

Carpet Weaving:

40 children (boys and girls) were under training, out of which 10 elder boys became master in the field of carpet weaving, and they have left ASCHIANA and started producing carpets on their own. Few of them work with other carpet producers. 15 boys are still under training, while the girls stopped coming to the centers.

Fifteen higher age girls were also trained by female carpet weaving instructor at her residence they became capable of producing carpets. We have some samples of their products available in our office. Now they are busy making carpets at their homes and earn good income. They have stopped the work of beggary.

Calligraphy and drawing:

One hundred ninety children have received training in the field of art of calligraphy, drawing, miniature arts, networking, and gypsum work. Twenty boys have made good achievements in calligraphy, drawings and paintings. Seven boys are well trained in miniature arts, 20 boys received the skills of networking, gypsum work, etc. The other 143 boys are still under training.

The children proved to be very much interested in the fields mentioned above. They are practicing to calligraphy some versus of the holly Quran - Hadith Sharif, national proverbs, International messages such as the Right of the Child, Health Messages, Patterns of calligraphy, miniature arts, some large and small pictures and etc. They have produced some calligraphy and arts pieces, which are available in ASCHIANA.

Some of them proved to be able to do some good work in this area. They are able to paint different pictures of natural views and objects. Their works in oil painting and water painting art works are worth of mentioning.

The calligraphy and other works of the children were put in an exhibition convened by the International Community of Kabul at the UN Guest House in the summer 1998. The art work of the children attracted the attention of the viewers very much.

The children who have obtained skills of calligraphy, painting, miniature art and other art works, can work in the local market and earn good income, for example in the area of sign-board paintings, pen drawing and painting of pictures, painting of pictures on local trucks and etc. They can also be hired in government or non government offices as calligraphers and artists.

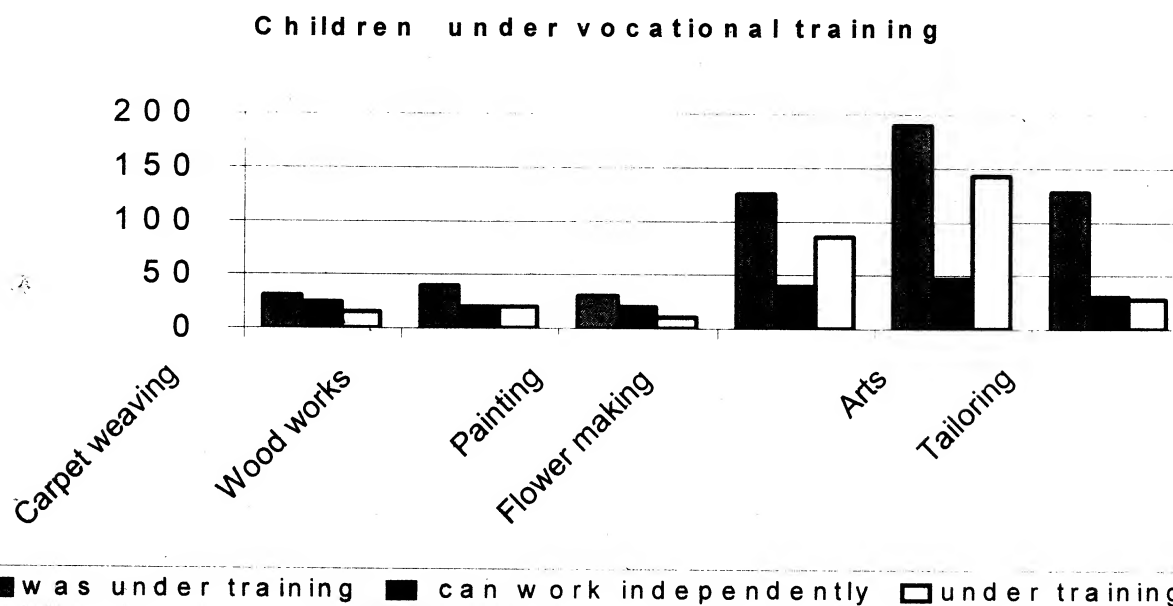


Trauma Training:

ASCHIANA has conducted in 1998 a training seminar on war trauma. The participants were ASCHIANA male and female personnel. The result of the seminar was evaluated positive and useful for dealing with the traumatized children and their families. All personnel dealing with the children have been trained in special war trauma effects and grieve. ASCHIANA's personnel always try to decrease the war trauma impacts on the children who have been war traumatized.. It should be mentioned that this program is undertaken in all the centers and is performed by the 'Home Visitors' and 'Social Workers' as well as teachers at the children work site and their residences. We have collected the stories told by the traumatized children. We too have some pictures drawn by the traumatized children. By writing stories and drawing the incidents that they remember, the effects of trauma on them can be decreased.

Daily income of street working children

No.	Daily income	No. children	Percent
	0 Afs.	680	
1	1000 Afs.	12	1%
2	1500 Afs.	10	1%
3	2000 Afs.	153	11%
4	3000 Afs.	161	12%
5	4000 Afs.	122	9%
6	5000 Afs.	96	7%
7	6000 Afs.	42	3%
8	7000 Afs.	15	1%
9	8000 Afs.	24	2%
10	9000 Afs.	8	1%
11	10000 Afs.	11	1%
Children with income		654	49%
Children with no income		680	51%
Total		1334	



Mini-Farming Training:

With cooperation of CHA (the NGO that donated some vegetable seeds kitchen gardening, ASCHIANA conducted some training for the children in small farming. They were taught how to grow corns, cucumbers, pumpkins, onions, leek, pepper, turnips, garlic and etc. Gardening was also performed in the centers. This program was mainly concentrated in center No. 3 and 4.

Staff efficiency development:

ASCHIANA had English classes for its staff needing English language improvement. 25 staff members were training in English language during the year and training. Two administrative staff received computer training. The above training programs were evaluated to be very useful and positive. ASCHIANA plans to continue such on the job training to its staff to elevate their knowledge and working ability, thus upgrading the quality of services in the children centers.

3. Problems and Obstacles:

A. Education:

Our main difficulties in the area of education are the irregular attendance of the children. As they work on roadsides, they come to the centers at any hour of the day as they feel like. We do not have a strict time for them to attend. It is completely up to them to choose the time they want they to participate in the class sessions. However, some of them come on regular basis. This irregularity of attendance causes much problems and complications in our education program. For example, a child who attends regularly, he can learn more. When a child attends in different hours he not only cannot learn at desired level but also causes irregularities in teaching activities. The teacher is supposed to work extra with those children who miss the classes along with other children.

The reason that we cannot hold the children to attend on a specific hour of the day is that they are responsible to earn some income for their families expenditures. We cannot blame them for such action, as we do not pay any incentive to them, to cover that part of his daily income.

When the girls were attending the classes, they learned and benefited from our education program. Due to the restrictions imposed on them, the girls cannot attend the centers. They may forget what they had learned in the center, if they would not follow studying at home.

B. Personal Hygiene and Health:

Since the time the female children have faced restrictions and cannot come to the child centers, although we give them hygiene and dry food, most of them seem to be malnourished, unhealthy, and some of them are not tidy enough. They seem to be more prone to illnesses as other members of their families share the food items that we issue to them. And probably their guardians overlook their hygiene status. When the girls were attending the centers they were dining in the center, and their hygiene kits provided to them were used under close watch of the Health Educators and teachers. Also, they regularly received health education, both by role play and audio visual means, such as pictures, charts etc.

C. Vocational Training:

The vocational training program is running satisfactorily. In general the children are interested in various vocations. Since the children are poor, they rush to the vocation and skill that yield them income sooner. For example flower making craft is attracting more children as the products are easily sold in the market and gives income to them.

“State parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women.”

Part 1: Article, 6: convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination Against Women

4. Recommendations:

A. Education:

As mentioned earlier the children belong to the poorest families in the community and they the responsibility for earning livelihood for their families. An education program can be evaluated positive and useful when the beneficiaries of it can achieve their targeted level of expectancy. In order to reach this goal, the children should attend in a regular manner. This aim can be achieved when an incentive is allowed to them. Our recent experience of training in repair of electric appliances shows that the children attending these training sessions are regular and punctual. In the event we provide them with some allowance, the children will benefit positive results from the education program.

It is further recommended that the teaching material be issued to them to review and pursue the education program at home.

Concerning the education program for the street working girls, it is recommended that female teachers be hired in the localities of the work place of the children to teach the girls in groups. This may also requires incentive to girls and more teaching and educational materials.

B. Health & Personal Hygiene:

In order to improve the health condition of the children by effectively providing health educa-

tion to them, it is recommended to hire female health personnel to provide home based health service and health education, and to check and control their personal hygiene outside of ASCHIANA centers. This practice would be continued until a time that the female street working children are again allowed to attend the centers. We hope that the restrictions on attendance of female children be lifted in the near future.

C. Vocational Training:

We mentioned that due to poor economic conditions of the children and their families, the children focus attention on the vocations that bring income sooner. In order to encourage the children to learn other crafts with no immediate income yield, but that could be profitable in long-term. It is recommended to make available some incentive or allowance for them.

It is further suggested if upon completion of any professional vocational training, assistance in the form of tool kits, small work equipment be supplied to them, they will certainly focus their attention on professional vocations.

“State parties recognize that every child has the inherent right to life.”

“State parties shall ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child.”

Part II: Article 6: convention on the rights of the Child

Traumatized children's stories

A story of Shazia daughter of Habib

Shazia has a story that she wants to share with her friends:

"My father was Habib. He was a poor worker. He was going out to work every day to bring for us food, clothing and other daily needs of our household. Our life was passing in a normal manner. But the continuous events interrupted our normal poor lives.

We did not own a house. We were living in a rented house in Karte now. On those days the fight was going on between the factions. Because of the heavy war, we had to vacate our house and to Chelsetoon to a residence of a relative of my father. We continued our life in the relative's house. One day my parents decided to take the opportunity to go to Karte Now to bring some of our belongings as were required. When they reached our house in Karte now. With lots of difficulties they found out that all our household items left in the house were looted. Except two old blankets and a quilt that were left in the house, every thing else was gone.

While my father and mother were on their way back to Chelsetoon, heavy fighting between the fighters broke out. Both of them were wounded by rocket particles on their way home. When the war stopped the unknown people loaded my parents on carts to carry them to the hospital. Since long time had passed and they had lost blood they died on way to the hospital. My uncle - brother of my mother - brought their corps home. We were busy playing in side of the compound that we heard the noise of car outside the gate. We became happy that our parents came home and probably brought our belongings home. Our uncle walked in to the courtyard and he was worried. We asked him about our parents. He did not answer. I stepped outside the gate and saw two rolled blankets lying all with blood and were rapped around bodied of people. They moved them

into the courtyard as my uncle cried and embraced us.

We discovered that our parents were dead. They did not permit us to get close to their bodies. I still remember all those events very clearly.

The neighbors gathered and buried my parents. A brother and a sister of mine and me remained in the house of our uncle. My uncle is also a poor man. He has a cart. He goes out early morning everyday and returns back home at late in the evenings. My brother, sister and myself work on the street. Some times we sell water, other times we collect wood and particles for fuel. I help my uncle's family with their housework. I am very much disturbed and it hurts.

My hope is to study. I like to get good education and if possible one day become a doctor. I feel a lot for the poor people. For time being I am attending one of ASCHIANA centers. ASCHIANA gives us food supplements and some items used for hygiene. It is a greet help to us. They give us medicine too. For treatment of leishmania, we have got vaccines as well."

**Afghanistan
children, victims of
war and landmines
need your generous
assistance.**



A story of the 12 years old Razaq,

Razaq is living in a muddy house in an old residential part of Kabul, Qala-i-Musa. He says that his cousin has mortgaged the mud house in which they are living now. Two years ago during the heavy fighting in Kabul they left Kabul for Doshi a district on the northern side of the famous Sailing highway. Since there was fighting and bombardments Doshi, Razaq's father was injured at his eye. The family decided to come back to Kabul.

"When we came back to Kabul, we did not have enough for one meal. My brother and I started to collect bread, wood and whatever we could get from other houses. My brother was 12 years old. Fortunately, we got admitted at one of ASCHIANA child centers. Outside ASCHIANA we were collecting bread and worked if we could get an easy one. We used to carry fruit boxes from trucks and back and forth in the fruit market. It was Thursday and the city was under heavy rocket attacks.

It was late evening. We became worried as my brother did not return home. We were distressed and disturbed as we did not have any relatives in Kabul City where my brother could have gone. Some times my father mentioned that he might have stayed over at the child center.

Next morning my father went to the ASCHIANA child center to look for my brother. He was not

there either. Father returned home alone. We in the family all became very much worried. What happened to him? All asked.

A day later, on Saturday, my father went to ASCHIANA, he did not find him again. Upon his return home my father said nothing, but he looked very sad. It was about noon time that the coffin of my brother was brought to our home. His body was blood stained and was difficult to recognize him. The whole house was full of sounds of groan and cry.

My brother was kind, whenever he was finding some good things he used to give it to me. On Thursday, shells due to rocket explosion in the city area where he was working had heavily injured my brother. On the way to the hospital he had died. The hospital officials, in the Jamhuriat hospital, have not paid any attention in this regard and his name was not appearing on the list of casualties nor on the list of the dead and/or injured patients. My father had much difficulty to search for him in all hospitals. At last he found him in that hospital.

The neighbors came together and arranged for the funeral.

Now I am working alone. I am the only breadwinner of the family's livelihood. Now after three days, I am dreaming my brother, I often have nightmares. And, I am scared when I come across a cemetery or a grave on some of the streets in the city."

Main objectives of ASCHIANA Program

The main objective of this program is to assist the street working children (SWC) of Kabul city. The ASCHIANA child centers do:

1. Provide health education and medical care, and meals to the SWC
2. Provide informal basic education, vocational training, games and physical education, to provide a better opportunity for the children to get attracted to choosing a more useful and healthy career.
3. Provide courses in English language and computer skills for war victims children
4. Provide income generation projects for the poor SWC and their parents in various home based handicraft.
5. Collect data on war traumatized adults and children
6. Establish vocational training centers for the registered children in the child centers
7. Establish additional centers when funds are available
8. Visit at their homes the children by the social and home visitors to coordinate activities with their parents
9. Provide mine-awareness programs
10. Provide narcotic-awareness programs
11. Provide traffic-awareness to children moving in the city
12. Produce health education material for mother and child care
13. Convening educational programs for Juvenile delinquency programs
14. Establish cooperation with other institutions for children programs
15. Promotion of greenification by children, planting fruit trees and decorative greenery
16. Publish illustrated books for children, story and drawing books produced by the children
17. Establish a library for children
18. Facilitate primary education and vocational training for girls
19. Establish contacts with specialists for improvement of methods and development of the ASCHIANA program
20. Provide loans to children families to establish income generation activities



ASCHIANA was established in Kabul under the sponsorship of a French NGO AVISEN in 1995. The program was fully Afghanized as AVEICEN terminated its activities in Afghanistan in early 1996. Funds to Ashiana activities have been available from various sources like UNHCR, CANADA FUND, TDH. ASCHIANA activities have been running on the minimum costs possible. And realizing the growing need for providing assistance to the Afghan street working children ASCHIANA have always been short of funding.

Today ASCHIANA child centers in Kabul treat more 1334 street working children involved in various service jobs on the street. They all need proper care and guidance to become good adults and have sustainable activities as their future career.

“ State parties recognize threat every child has the inherent right to life.”

“State Parties shall ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child.”

Part II, Article 6: convention on the right of child

ASCHIANA

Afghan Street Working Children and a new approach

House # 231

Opposite to the Industrial Bank

Charahi – Faiz Mohammad khan, Shahri – Now, Kabul, Afghanistan, Tel: 33125